

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 20-26 with the following:

The present invention utilizes a process referred to here as “state adaptation,” by which a group of two or more devices use wireless networks to adopt a closely related or common changed state. A person with one device can make a change to that person’s device, thereby causing a change in other devices in the group. Groups of two or more devices thus affect, and are affected by, one or more of the other devices in the group, regardless of separation distance. This state adaptation is preferably accomplished over a wireless communications network, or for devices for use at short distances, through direct radio contact.

Replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 1-7 with the following:

The encoded data packet is provided to a transmitter/receiver 18 for transmission to and reception by transmitter/receiver 20 of bracelet 12 without providing a specific code or designation to identify the recipient. The devices are mated such that only the mated device or devices receive the signal, even if there are a number of types of devices in the vicinity that are not so mated. This transmission can be provided by conventional, digital, radio frequency communication technology, such as that used in paging, cellular, PCS, or satellite communications networks.

Replace the paragraph at page 6, lines 12-19 with the following:

The system of the present invention can utilize a system in which the change in the state on one device affects the states of the other devices, but not vice versa. Preferably, however, the devices are mated such that the two are substantially identical. Consequently, bracelet 12 would have a sensor 26 and encoder 28 substantially similar to sensor 14 and encoder 16; similarly, bracelet 10 would have a decoder 30 and mechanical control 32 that are substantially similar to the corresponding items in bracelet 12. Bracelet 10 would thus have a decoder 30 substantially similar to decoder 22 in bracelet 12 and mechanical control 32 substantially similar to mechanical control 24 in bracelet 12.

Replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 18-24 with the following:

In scenarios where parties are typically physically close to each other, the use of a wireless network to route signals may be unnecessary. In this case, a simpler version of the devices bypasses a wireless network and transmits signals to any mated devices directly. Such local devices must be reasonably proximate, such as within a few hundred meters , such as a school, office building house, or shopping mall, or even a mile or two. The system is thus similar to that shown in Fig. 2, with the lines identified as 3a, 4, and 5 being replaced by a direct connection.